

EXHIBIT

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253

HB 253

**THIRTEEN YEARS OF BISON MANAGEMENT BY THE MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK**

**This has been a costly, unproductive, wasteful, divisive road to nowhere
that does not protect private property rights.**

COSTLY:

Over \$3 million per year have been spent recently; probably more in 2008.

UNPRODUCTIVE:

1434 bison sent to slaughter, most without testing for brucellosis, in 2008.

130 other bison removed in 2008.

Bison removed from lands where there are no cattle to protect.

Montana brucellosis-free status lost anyway, not due to bison.

WASTEFUL:

Recreational value of wild bison to tourists, hunters, photographers lost.

Commercial value of bison to local communities, guides, outfitters lost.

Ecological values of wild bison lost.

DIVISIVE:

Single-focus control of bison has divided Montanans, to no one's long-term best interest. Collaboration, not controversy, is needed.

ROAD TO NOWHERE:

There are no realistic plans to do anything different. Costs, waste and divisiveness will continue indefinitely.

Talk of eradicating Brucella from >100,000 elk and almost 3000 bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area is wildly unrealistic and irresponsible.

PROPERTY RIGHTS NOT RESPECTED:

DOL may enter private property, without permission, to remove bison.

HB 253

WHICH AGENCY IS BETTER SUITED TO LEAD IN THE MANAGEMENT OF MONTANA WILD BISON?

MISSION:

FWP Mandated to promote a variety of wildlife values for all Montanans.

DOL Bison Control.*

STAFF:

FWP Educated in Wildlife Ecology, Population Dynamics, Wildlife Behavior, Population Genetics.

DOL Commercial Livestock Management, Livestock Diseases.

OUTREACH:

FWP History of working with a diversity of stakeholders, including ranchers.

DOL History of working with livestock producers.

* Bison and brucellosis control will continue to be managed, where risks are real, by DOL under MCA 81-2-121. FWP will be mandated, in HB 253, to cooperate with DOL in this endeavor.